

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend misnumbered second claim 34, cancel claims 17, 21 and 23-33 without prejudice, and add new claims 36 and 37, as follows.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the above-captioned application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-13 are cancelled.

14. (Previously Presented) A master alloy for casting a copper alloy, consisting of:

Cu: 40 to 80 wt.%;

Zr: 0.5 to 35 wt.%;

at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg: 0.01 to 1 wt.%, Sn: 0.1 to 5 wt.%, B: 0.01 to 0.5 wt.%, Mn: 0.01 to 5 wt.% and Si: 0.01 to 1 wt.%; and  
the balance of Zn.

15-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) The master alloy for casting a copper alloy according to claim 14,

wherein said master alloy is an ingot formed in a shape of a boat, continuous casting material formed in a shape of a rod or wire, or hot extrusion material formed in a shape of a rod or wire.

19. (Previously Presented) A master alloy for casting a copper alloy, consisting of:

Cu: 40 to 80 wt.%;

Zr: 0.5 to 35 wt.%;

P: 0.01 to 3 wt.%;

at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg: 0.01 to 1 wt.%, Sn: 0.1 to 5 wt.%, B: 0.01 to 0.5 wt.%, Mn: 0.01 to 5 wt.% and Si: 0.01 to 1 wt.%; and  
the balance of Zn.

20-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) The master alloy for casting a copper alloy according to claim 19,

wherein said master alloy is an ingot formed in a shape of a boat, continuous casting material formed in a shape of a rod or wire, or hot extrusion material formed in a shape of a rod or wire.

Claims 23-33 are cancelled.

34. (Previously Presented) The master alloy for casting a copper alloy according to claim 14, wherein the master alloy has a grain size of 50 $\mu$ m or less, after casting.

3534. (Currently Amended) The master alloy for casting a copper alloy according to claim 19, wherein the master alloy has a grain size of 50 $\mu$ m or less, after casting.

36. (NEW) A master alloy for casting a copper alloy, consisting of:

Cu: 40 to 80 wt.%;

Zr: 0.5 to 35 wt.%;

at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg: 0.01 to 1 wt.%, Sn: 0.1 to 5 wt.%, B: 0.01 to 0.5 wt.%, Mn: 0.01 to 5 wt.% and Si: 0.01 to 1 wt.%; and  
the balance of Zn,

wherein said Cu occupies 50 to 65 wt.%, and said Zr occupies 1 to 10 wt.%.

37. (NEW) A master alloy for casting a copper alloy, consisting of:

Cu: 40 to 80 wt.%;

Zr: 0.5 to 35 wt.%;

P: 0.01 to 3 wt.%;

at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg: 0.01 to 1 wt.%, Sn: 0.1 to 5 wt.%, B: 0.01 to 0.5 wt.%, Mn: 0.01 to 5 wt.% and Si: 0.01 to 1 wt.%; and  
the balance of Zn,

wherein said Cu occupies 50 to 65 wt.%, and said Zr occupies 1 to 10 wt.%.